GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4400
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
EXPLORATION OF HYDROCARBON RESERVE IN RIVER BRAHMAPUTRA
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Union Government has decided to explore the Hydrocarbon in the bank of river Brahmaputra;

(b)If so, the details thereof;

(c)whether there are any environmental reasons opposing study of hydrocarbon potential of the river; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to look into the matter?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (d) Government of India has awarded 16 exploratory blocks in the state of Assam near the bank of Brahamaputra in the Pre-NELP (New Exploration Licensing Policy) and NELP rounds held so far. These blocks are under various stages of exploration. Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for three blocks namely AA-ONJ/2 and AA-ONN-2004/3, AA-ONN-2004/5 is yet to be issued by the state Government.Oil India Limited (OIL) has plan to carry out 1,700 Ground Line Kilometre of 2D seismic survey in parts of river Brahmaputra in Upper Assam as a part of its hydrocarbons exploration activities.OIL is awaiting necessary environmental clearance for the proposed seismic survey operation from Pollution Control Board of Assam. A few Non Government Organizations and public organizations had expressed their concern for the survey apprehending ecological imbalance in river Brahmaputra, particularly threat to river dolphins present in the river. OIL is carrying out Environmental Management Plan Study as suggested by Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forest.